

# Starting VCDAT

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**Goal:** Be able to launch VCDAT and generate a basic data plot.

To get VCDAT started, type:

```
vcdat &
```

Locate and open the netCDF data file in the following directory:

```
<CDAT_SRC_DIRECTORY>/Packages/dat/clt.nc
```

Where the notation <CDAT\_SRC\_DIRECTORY> indicates the full path name of the directory where you uncompressed and un-tarred the CDAT source code.

*Directory:* In the "Directory" input text window, enter <CDAT\_SRC\_DIRECTORY>/Packages/dat or select the file icon just to the left of the input text window.

*File:* In the "File or URL" input text window, enter "clt.nc <return>" or select the arrow button to the right of the input text window and select "clt.nc".

*Variable:* In the "Variable" input text window, enter "clt <return>" or select the arrow button to the right of the input text window and select "clt".

*Plot:* Select the orange "Plot" button to plot the "clt" data in standard Boxfill graphics method form. (See figure 2.)

**Remember:** the hierarchy of plotting is '*directory*', '*file*', '*variable*', and then '*plot*'. (See figure 1.)

Replace Boxfill graphics method with a different plot option and re-plot.

Select the "Boxfill" button menu to the right of the "Plot" button and select "Isofill", then re-select the "Plot" button. (See figure 3.) Repeat this process for other graphics methods (i.e., 'Graphics Methods' --> 'Isofill, Isoline, FilledIsoline', etc.).

Figure 1. Full display of VCDAT with default settings.

Figure 2. Standard Boxfill data display.

Figure 3. Standard Isofill (i.e., contour) data display.

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